

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 4629

Introduced by Representative Ben P. Evardone

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Electricity is one determining factor for socio-economic development. Its efficient provision invariably contributes to poverty reduction, fuels economic growth and enables the fulfillment of the most basic human needs. The availability of electricity is indeed crucial in our efforts to secure ourselves a better future.

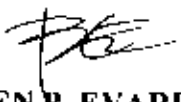
In line with the policy of the State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all, Republic Act No. 9136, or else known as the EPIRA Law, was enacted.

The EPIRA Law, it must be noted, came into being primarily on account of the promises of affordable and hopefully lowered electricity rates, among others, when the reforms under the said law are in place, and taking into account the individual and collective need for electricity, the present living conditions of people and the social justice mandate enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. For this reason, an extendable socialized pricing mechanism called the lifeline rate for marginalized end-users was authorized under Section 73, RA No. 9136.

However, ten years into the EPIRA regime, nothing much has changed. To some, either the EPIRA Law was set off towards unreachable stars or superbly crafted upon a pile of plain verbiage.

Verily, and in view of the rapid price increase in basic commodities, perhaps triggered by the rise in oil prices in the world market, cutting off this lifeline at this time would effectively choke the dampened spirit of every Juan de la Cruz.

It is on this score that immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly sought.


BEN P. EVARDONE
Representative
Lone District, Eastern Samar

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4629

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AN ACT

EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR SOCIALIZED PRICING MECHANISM CALLED
THE LIFELINE RATE FOR MARGINALIZED END-USERS UNDER SECTION 73,
REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC
POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

SECTION 1. Short Title.—This Act shall be known as the “Lifeline Rate Extension
Act of 2011.”

SECTION 2. The existing socialized pricing mechanism called the lifeline rate for
the marginalized end-users established pursuant to Section 73, Republic Act No. 9136 is
hereby extended for a period of ten (10) years, unless further extended by an act of Congress.

SECTION 3. The extended period under this Act shall commence to run from the
last day of the original period granted in Section 73, Republic Act No. 9136.

SECTION 4. All laws, executive orders or issuances, or any part thereof which are
inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,



BEN P. EVARDONE

Representative

Lone District of Eastern Samar